

and accorded International Application No. PCT/SE02/00551, filed March 20, 2002". Since this PCT application was filed with one year of the Swedish priority application, the PCT application and the National Phase US application both can claim priority to the original Swedish application. Thus, the priority request is correct and the Declaration is not defective.

The Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 20, 2004 has been objected to for failing to provide a legible copy of each cited foreign document. A new IDS is being submitted herewith with copies of the cited foreign documents.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 8 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem cited in the Office Action.

Claims 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,184,366 to Butler. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 recites, among other features, that the "variation in capacitance occurs in a gap between the sensor electrode and the surface of the coin, and wherein the size of the gap depends on the thickness of the coin." Claim 10 recites, among other features, "a sensor device capable of measuring a variation in capacitance between a sensor electrode and a surface of an individual coin, wherein said variation in capacitance occurs in a gap between the sensor electrode and a surface of the coin, said size of the gap depending on the thickness of the coin".

Butler discloses a coin testing apparatus. Butler can test the diameter, composition and thickness of a coin. As disclosed in column 5, lines 21-59, a thickness monitoring circuit is used to determine the thickness of the coin. Butler states that the thickness of the coin is determined by determining a voltage which is proportional to the capacitance to ground of the electrode 60. Butler is completely silent on detecting the variation in

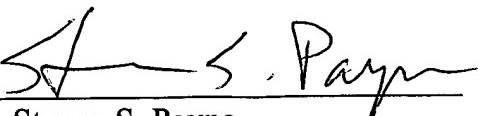
capacitance between a sensor electrode and the surface of a coin wherein the variation in capacitance occurs in a gap between the sensor electrode and the surface of the coin, and wherein the size of the gap depends on the thickness of the coin as is explicitly recited in claims 8 and 10 of the present application. As a result, claims 8 and 10 are not anticipated by Butler.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication the claims 6 and 7 are allowed and claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 has not been written in independent form since it is believed that claim 9 depends from an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the below attorney at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 28, 2007

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